

Statement on Signing the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001

December 21, 2001

Today I have signed into law S. 494, the “Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001.” This Act symbolizes the clear bipartisan resolve in the United States to promoting human rights, good governance, and economic development in Africa. My Administration shares fully the Congress’ deep concerns about the political and economic hardships visited upon Zimbabwe by that country’s leadership. I hope the provisions of this important legislation will support the people of Zimbabwe in their struggle to effect peaceful democratic change, achieve economic growth, and restore the rule of law.

Section 4(c) of the Act purports to direct the executive branch to oppose and vote against the extension of loans or the can-

cellation of debt in international financial institutions unless and until I make a certification or national interest determination. I am concerned that this provision burdens my constitutional authority in the area of foreign affairs to conduct negotiations and cast votes in international organizations. I will construe the provision as being subject to my exclusive authority to negotiate or vote in international financial institutions.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
December 21, 2001.

NOTE: S. 494, approved December 21, was assigned Public Law No. 107–99.

Remarks at the 2002 Olympic Torch Relay Ceremony

December 22, 2001

The President. Please be seated. Good morning.

Audience members. Good morning.

The President. It’s the kind of morning we expect when we’re honoring the winter Olympics. This flame stands for the skill and dedication of friendly competition. I’m honored to take part in the 2002 Olympic torch relay, and I’m really proud to welcome the Olympic spirit to America this winter.

I want to thank Mitt Romney for coming. Mitt, it’s great to see you again. I know Utah is well represented by the chairman, Congressman Jim Hansen. Thank you both for being here.

I want to welcome all the members of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee and members of the United States Olympic

Committee for being here, as well. These men and women have worked tirelessly and long, long, long hours to make sure that our country is well represented when the world starts focusing on us yet again in February of this year. I’m really proud of the work you’ve done. You’ve brought a lot of honor to America, and for that, Americans are grateful.

The 2002 Olympic games will officially begin when this torch reaches its destination in Salt Lake City. Its 13,500-mile journey will bring it through 46 States, carried by some 11,500 torchbearers. Each torchbearer’s story is a lesson in citizenship and courage and compassion.

Two torchrunners with us today were deeply affected by the attacks of September the 11th. Liz Howell lost her husband,